

ON THE GENUS THLIPSOGASTER ROND.

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In the Transactions of the American Entomological Society for March, 1895, p. 108, Mr. Coquillett referred to this genus of Rondani two American species, *T. ater* Coq. which I have before me from Mexico, and *T. syndesmus* Coq., which I have seen from Kansas. A careful examination of the literature assures me, however, that there is no real relationship between our species and the types of Thlipsogaster. Whether or not the species described by Mr. Coquillett and several other allied ones known to me should receive a new generic name is a question that I will leave in abeyance. The only real difference from *Bombylius* which they present is in the first posterior cell of the wings being closed in the margin instead of at some distance from it. Apparently additional characters are found in the peculiar markings of all the known species; all of them, for instance, possessing a silvery spot near each eye at the base of the antennae. Were these characters confined to such species as present the neurational character, I should not hesitate to give the genus another name. Unfortunately, however, such species as *Bombylius lugubris* Loew, and *B. ater* Lin., especially the latter, seem to have very similar markings, though the first posterior cell is closed remotely from the margin. As *T. ater*

Coq. must be retained in the genus *Bombylius* for the present, at any rate, the specific name *Coquilletti* may be substituted in order not to conflict with *B. ater* Linn.

My reasons for rejecting Thlipsogaster Rond. for these species are as follows:

Thlipsogaster Rond. was separated from Thlipsomyza Wiedemann in a very imperfect way as follows: "Al genero fondata dal Wiedman per una specie Africana furono aggiunte altre due parimenti dall' Affrica dal Macquart, ma diversi caratteri di queste non combinano con quelli della prima, per maniera che si rende necessaria la loro separazione almeno in due generi."

"AA. Alarum areolae submarginales duae tantum. * * *

BB. Venae longitudinales alae quinta et sexta [tertia et quarta] sejunctim marginem alae attingentes vel vix in ipso contiguae.

G. Thlipsogaster Mihi.

Cont. Sp. Castanea et Heteroptera Macq." *

In all probability Rondani had not seen these species when he erected the genus, but took the characters from Macquart. Turning to Macquart †

* Arch. per. la Zool. 1863, p. 72.

† Dipt. Exot. ii, 1, 32 and 113.

we find the following characters assigned to them: "Tête aussi large que le thorax" (p. 32). "Ce genre [Thlipsomyza], dont le caractère le plus apparent est l'abdomen comprimé et muni de soies sur les bords des segments, a pour le type le *T. compressa*, Wied., *Bombylius id.*, Fab., d'Alger. Nous y joignons deux espèces nouvelles, également du nord de l'Afrique, dont l'une, le *T. heteroptera*, diffère des autres par la première cellule postérieure ouverte. Ces Bombyliens se distinguent encore des autres par les soies qui bordent les segments de l'abdomen."

Of *T. castanea*, he says: "C'est peut-être une variété du *T. compressa*."

In his specific descriptions, Macquart gives a quite different type of coloration for his species, and in his figure of *T. heteroptera* the bristles of the abdo-

men are conspicuously indicated. Furthermore, the abdomen, like the whole body, is bare and elongated. All of these characters are so "himmelweit" from the Bombylius type, to use Wiedemann's own expression, that one is surprised that the identity of our forms should have occurred to Mr. Coquillett. It is interesting to observe that both Schiner and Loew refused to accept *Amictus* Wied. as being distinct from *Thlipsomyza*, based as it was chiefly on the open or narrowly closed first posterior cell, the sole character assigned to *Thlipsogaster* by Rondani. *Eurycaenus* Loew seems to be a nearly allied genus.

The moral of it is that Rondani's genera, like Walker's species, are to be accepted with fear and trembling.

ARKANSAS MELANOPLI—I.

BY JEROME MCNEILL, FAYETTEVILLE, ARK.

The recent publication of Scudder's excellent Revision of the Melanopli by making it possible to recognize with certainty those species which have already been described suggested the propriety of placing on record the species of this group which are known to occur in Arkansas. This seemed to be the more desirable because almost nothing is known of the Orthopteran fauna of this State. The list here given is undoubtedly very far from complete

as the collections upon which it is based have been made almost entirely in the seven or eight counties of Northwestern Arkansas. Altogether nineteen species representing six genera are known. Melanoplus includes fourteen of these species and two of these *Mel. baconi* and *Mel. sylvaticus* are apparently undescribed. Two others *Mel. impudicus* Scudd. and *Mel. impiger* Scudd. were described very recently in Scudder's monograph cited above.